WITH FAA PAPERS IN HAND, R44 CADET NOW READY FOR DUTY

News / Business aviation

Robinson Helicopter's new R44 Cadet trainer received FAA certification on Friday. The Cadet has the same airframe, rotor system and Lycoming O-540-F1B5 as the R44 Raven I, but the Cadet's rear seats are removed, maximum takeoff weight is lowered to 2,200 pounds and the engine is derated to 210 hp for takeoff and 185 hp continuous.

Robinson began taking orders in February for the Cadet, which at $339,000 costs $40,000 less than the R44Raven I. A float-equipped Cadet is available for $367,000. Among the options on the Cadet are air-conditioning—thus far available only on the Raven II—stability augmentation system, autopilot and VFR and IFR training avionics packages.

According to Robinson, "The lower weight and derated power provide greater performance margins at high altitudes and extend the time between overhaul to 2,400 hours from 2,200 hours, reducing operating costs." Lead times for Cadet orders are currently estimated at 10 to 12 weeks, the company said.

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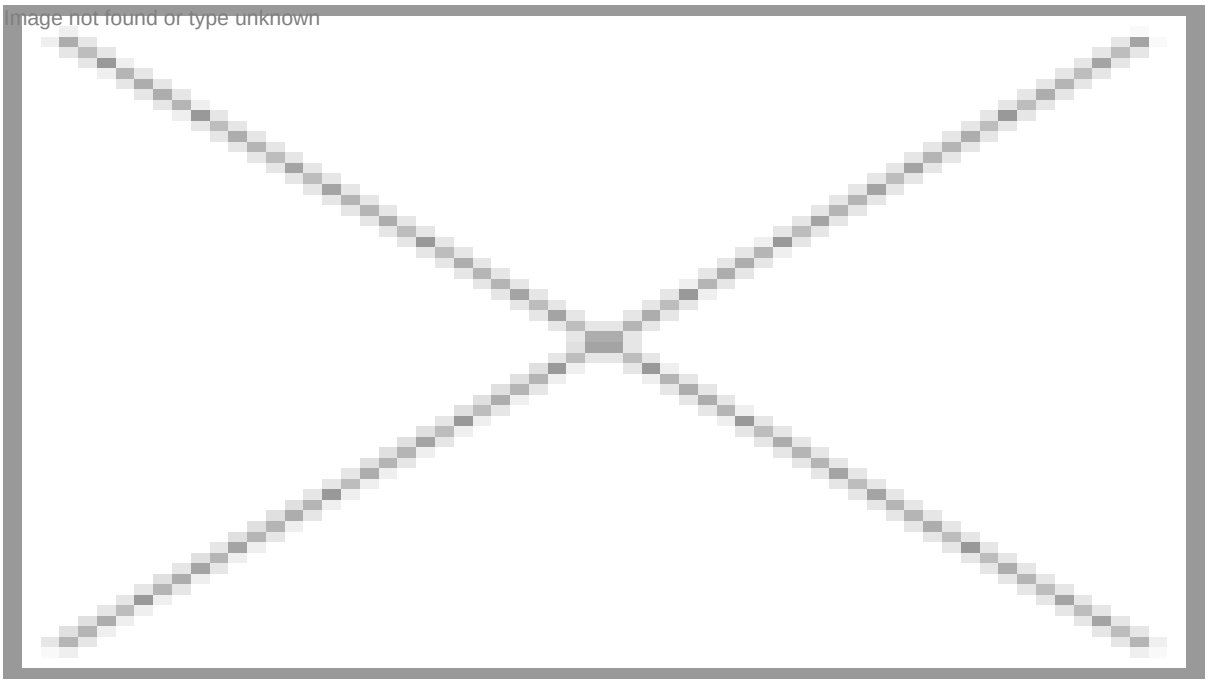

11 MAY 2016

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